



## LATE TESTIMONY

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
8:00 A.M.  
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2433  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2433. The purpose of this bill is to create a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program on Department of Agriculture land. We are in support of this bill.

The rising cost of feed has a significant impact on production costs for our local protein producers. Since 2007, two dairies and four egg farms have gone out of business primarily due to the rising cost of feed for livestock animals. Currently, only one dairy and four egg farms remain and they are being threatened by closure which would heighten the State's dependence on imported foods and threaten the State's food security and self-sufficiency. Without these local agricultural businesses, all beef, milk, pork, chicken, and eggs would have to be imported into the State, requiring up to ten days of shipping before being sold to consumers. This pilot project would assess the viability of growing livestock feed in Hawaii and look to reducing the cost of feed and increase the profitability of our local protein producers. Working together with private and public research organizations and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources staff will deliver the best results.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# LATE TESTIMONY



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2433  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Room 312  
8:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 2433 which creates a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program on Department of Agriculture land.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 2 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and dairies are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. This is primarily due to feed costs.

If we want to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork and chicken available to the residents of Hawaii, we need to help revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

This pilot project is critical in determining the feasibility of growing and processing livestock feed in Hawaii. Locally produced livestock feed would help reduce the production costs of our protein producers making them more profitable, which will help to revitalize our livestock industry.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# LATE TESTIMONY

**West County Farm Bureau  
94-403 Ukee Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

## TESTIMONY

Committee on Agriculture  
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Rep. Mark Hashem, Vice Chair

Wednesday February 1, 2012  
TIME: 8:00 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 312

RE: HB 2433 - Relating to Livestock Feed  
Chairperson Tsuji, Vice-Chair Hashem and Committee Members,

My name is Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser and I am an egg producer and Chairperson of the Government Affairs Committee for West County Farm Bureau on Oahu. West County Farm Bureau represents vegetable and livestock farmers, ranchers and aquaculture farmers from the Waianae Coast, Central Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu. We support the intent of HB 2433.

Most of our livestock and aquaculture producers have experienced approximately 20% increases in their feed prices within a year due to the significant increases in corn, soybean and hay. Corn prices rose close to \$8 per bushel compared to \$4.80 per bushel in 2007. Fuel surcharges continue to increase.

Much research has been conducted about feed production in Hawaii by faculty in Animal Science and cooperative extension at the University of Hawaii. I suggest the Department of Agriculture do a literature review of the previous works on the subject of feed production and local feedstuffs in Hawaii to provide the department with historical information. Such a review may provide the department with previous bottlenecks identified with previous pilot projects to grow feed for cattle, hogs and poultry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2433.

# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2433 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB2433

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown  
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hi  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

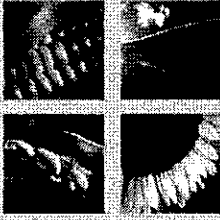
**Comments:**

In strong support of this bill and has testified for the companion bill in the Senate Ag Committee hearing in strong support.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*



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Alicia Maluafti

Testimony by Alicia Maluafti  
HB 2433 – Relating to Livestock Feed  
The House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012  
8:00 a.m., Room 312

**Position: Support**

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers.

We support HB 2433 and believe that it is an important first step to understanding the feasibility of providing feed for Hawaii's struggling livestock industry. With the leadership of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, the various stakeholders will be able to move from dialogue to action after years of attempting to address the challenges in our state. Regardless of the outcome – it is a process that many in the agricultural community supports.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hi  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

**Comments:**

In strong support of this bill and has testified for the companion bill in the Senate Ag Committee hearing in strong support.